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REPORT

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INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS CD NO.

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

COMMUNISTS SEEK TO CHANGE
OR USE TIME-HONORED CUSTOMS

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while they can. Therefore, it is very necessary to institute a strict austerity program, to attack superstition and start educational propaganda on land-reform policies, and to guard against and expose subversive activities. However, rigid commands must be avoided in mobilizing for austerity; the work must be done through a realistic educational approach.

Similar conditions are true in Sung-yang, Chekiang. For instance, in the Ch'e-han village of 300 families, in one day five hogs were slaughtered and all the meat sold (averaging one catty per day per family. Ordinarily, 300 catties a day could not be disposed of in both city and country markets, while on market-days, sales would be something like 1,000 catties. But recently, more than 2,500 catties of pork were sold on a market day. Formerly, one catty of pork would be exchanged for 4 catties of rice; now the rate has risen to 8 and 10 catties of rice, with the supply undiminished. In the Ch'i-k'ou village, the entire population numbering about 100 families burned about 1,000 catties of joss-paper, costing 600 yuan per catty, during one festive day.

The people say, "This is a time-honored festival, on which, after having harvested the new grain, we show reverence to our great ancestors." This proves that a part of the population forget that the new grain is the fruit of hard toil through all seasons and all kinds of weather; so they just squander it. The chief reasons for this prodigality are: (1) Kuomintang agents start rumors, "tax-grain is to be heavier this year than last, by 20-30 catties per mou"; "live a day at a time, if you don't eat and wear clothes, you are a fool"; (2) cadres neglect their duty of leadership for austerity, reasoning that the masses have been instructed during all the days of hard toil and now that they have good harvests, they would not easily throw away their gains.

PEIPING TO PUBLISH NEW ALMANAC -- Hong Kong, Hsin-sheng Wan-pao, 23 Sep 50

The Peiping Radio has announced that Chinese farmers are to have a new official almanac. For generations the rural classes have consulted the almanac before entering upon new experiences, such as taking a journey, building a house, marriage, burial, etc., somewhat as one would consult a fortuneteller. The new almanac will contain useful information about health, the new marriage law, letter writing, amusements, etc. The new almanac is a project of a Peiping social studies group and the printers' cooperative.

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